

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act
5 is amended by adding Section 1.15 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 25/1.15 new)

7 Sec. 1.15. Mandatory online concussion certification.

8 (a) An association or other entity that has, as one of its
9 purposes, promoting, sponsoring, regulating, or in any manner
10 providing for interscholastic athletics or any form of athletic
11 competition among schools and students within this State shall
12 develop an online certification for high school coaching
13 personnel and athletic directors in concussion awareness and
14 reduction of repetitive sub-concussive hits and concussions.
15 The certification program shall be offered free of charge to
16 member high schools. The program may be offered to non-member
17 schools or athletic organizations for a fee determined by the
18 association.

19 (b) On and after the effective date of this amendatory Act
20 of the 98th General Assembly, online concussion certification
21 is mandatory for all high school coaching personnel, including
22 the head and assistant coaches, and the athletic directors.
23 Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired before the

1 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General
2 Assembly shall be certified within one year after the effective
3 date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.
4 Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired on and after
5 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General
6 Assembly must be certified under this Section before the
7 starting date of their position.

8 (c) The mandatory online certification program content
9 shall be updated annually, include a video, and focus on, but
10 not be limited to, the following topics:

11 (1) concussion awareness training that includes
12 general comments about the subject of concussions,
13 concussion recognition, best practices for avoiding
14 concussions, an athlete's removal from a game, and an
15 athlete's return to play; and

16 (2) repetitive sub-concussive head trauma awareness
17 training that includes the potential long-term effects of
18 sub-concussive head trauma and techniques to reduce its
19 occurrence during practice and competitions.

20 (d) To pass the concussion certification required under
21 this Section, coaching personnel and athletic directors shall
22 review the association's online material and demonstrate
23 proficiency on the test developed by the association. The
24 certification shall be renewed every 2 years.

25 (e) High school coaching personnel and athletic directors
26 shall annually require their student athletes to watch the

1 video in the online concussion certification program under
2 subsection (c) of this Section to increase athlete awareness of
3 the risk of concussions and sub-concussive hits to the head.

4 (f) High school coaching personnel and athletic directors
5 shall encourage coaches of youth sports organizations to
6 consider this certification.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.